for m Deane of Winchester.

A DECLARATION OF great troubles pretended against *the Realme by a number of Semi-*narie Priests and Iesuists, sent, and very secretly dispersed in the same, to worke great Treasons vnder a false pretence of Religion,

With a prouision very necessarie for remedie thereof. Published by this her Maiesties Proclamation.

Imprinted at London by the Deputies *of Christopher Barker Printer to the* Queenes most excellent Maiestie.

1591.

BRITISH MUSEUM

A Declaration of great troubles pretended againſt the Realme, by a number of Seminarie Prieſts and Ieſuiſts, ſent, and verie ſecretely diſperſed in the ſame, to worke great treaſons vnder a falſe pretence of religiõ, with a prouiſion very neceſſary for remedy therof. Publiſhed by this her Maieſties Proclamation.

ALthough we haue had probable cauſe to haue thought, that now towards the end of xxxiij. yeeres, being the time wherein almighty God, hath continually preſerued vs in a peaceable poſſeſſion of our kingdomes, the former violence and rigour of the malice of our enemies (ſpecially of the King of Spaine) woulde after his continuance in ſeeking to trouble our eſtate, without any iuſt cauſe ſo many yeeres, haue waxed faint and decayed in him, and all others depending on him, and bene altered into ſome peaceable humor, meete to haue diſpoſed him to liue in concord with vs, and other Chriſtian Princes his neighbors, and by ſuch good means to eſtabliſh an vniuerſal peace in Chriſtendome nowe by his warres onely, and no otherwiſe diſturbed: yet to the contrary wee finde it, by

his preſent mightie actions, ſo great as hee neuer before this time attempted the like. Whereby it ſo pleaſeth the Almightie God of Hoſtes, (as wee are perſwaded) to ſuffer the ruine or correction of ſuch as will not be content to liue in peace with their owne: And to that ende, to permit the ſaide King now in this his declined yeeres meeteſt for peace, and when he ought to be ſatisfied, without ſeeking of more kingdomes, by violence and armes (ſeeing hee poſſeſſeth at this day, more Crownes, Kingdomes and Countries, and more earthly wealth then any of his progenitours, or any other Prince Chriſtian euer had) nowe to beginue a moſt vniuſt and a dangerous warre for al Chriſtendome againſt the preſent French King. As in like manner appeared he meant two yeares paſt to haue doone the like againſt vs, by inuading of our Kingdomes, in the very time of a treatie of peace with vs. Whereof God gaue him and his whole army a iuſt cauſe of repentance.

1 And therefore ſeeing wee doe now manifeſtly vnderſtand, that he hath of late (to fortifie theſe his ſtrange violent attempts with ſome newe coulour) procured a *Milanois* a vaſſaile of his owne to bee exalted into the Papacie of Rome, and hath ſeduced him, without conſent of the College of Cardinals to exhauſt the treaſures of the Church, and therewith to leuie forces in Italie (which had no ſounde of warre in it theſe many yeeres) and in many other places, to be guyded by his Nephewe, and ſent to inuade France, a kingdome that hath bene alwayes a maintainer of that Church in al their oppreſſions. And for that this warre, ſo generally, and mightily

againſt France, concerneth our eſtate very greatly, and cannot but be directly very daungerous to our dominions: And that it is alſo knowen to vs, that by ſundry meanes, beſides the preparation of other great forces for the Seas, againſt our Crowne and Dominions, the ſame bee greater for this yeere to come, then euer hee had before. And for furtherance thereof, hath alſo lately by coulour of this his peculiar Popes authoritie, which he hath now hanging at his girdle, practiſed with certaine principall ſeditious heades, being vnnaturall Subiects of our Kingdome (but yet very baſe of birth) to gather together with great labours vpon his charges, a multitude of diſſolute yong men, who haue partly for lacke of liuing, partly for crimes committed, become Fugitiues, Rebelles, and Traitours, and for whome there are in Rome, and Spaine, and other places certaine receptacles made to liue in, and there to bee inſtructed in Schoole pointes of ſedition, and from thence to bee ſecretely and by ſtealth conueyed into our Dominions, with ample authoritie from Rome, to mooue, ſtirre vp, and perſwade as many of our Subiectes, as they dare deale withall, to renounce their naturall allegeance due to vs and our Crowne, and vpon hope by a Spaniſh Inuaſion to bee enriched and endowed with the Poſſeſſions and Dignities of our other good Subiectes: For which purpoſe they do binde our Subiects (with whom they practiſe) by Othes, yea by Sacramentes to forſweare their naturall alleageance to vs, and yeelde their obedience wyth all their powers to this King of Spaine and to aſſiſte his forces. And for the more forcible attraction of

theſe vnnaturall people (being weake of vnderſtanding) to this their bend, theſe Seedemen of treaſon bring certaine Bulles from the Pope, ſome of Indulgences pretending to promiſe Heauen to ſuch as will yeelde: and ſome of curſinges, threatning damnation and Hell, to ſuch as ſhall not yeelde to their perſwaſions. And though theſe manner of Popiſh attempts, haue bene of long time vſed, yet in ſome ſort alſo they haue bene impeached, by direct execution of Lawes againſt ſuch Traitours for meere treaſons, and not for any pointes of Religion, as their fautours woulde coulour falſely their actions, which are moſt manifeſtly ſeene and heard at their arraignements, howe they are neither executed, condemned, nor endited, but for high Treaſons, affirming, that amongeſt other things, they will take parte wyth anie armie ſent by the Pope againſt vs and our Realme. And of this that none doe ſuffer death for matter of Religion, there is manifeſt proofe, in that a number of men of wealth in our Realme profeſſing contrary Religion, are knowen not to bee impeached for the ſame, eyther in their liues, landes, or goods, or in their liberties, but onely by payment of a pecuniary ſumme, as a penaltie for the time that they doe refuſe to come to Church, which is a moſt manifeſt courſe to falſifie the ſlaunderous ſpeeches and Libelles of the Fugitiues abroade. Yet now it is certainely vnderſtoode, that theſe heades of theſe dennes and receptacles, which are by the traitours called Seminaries, and Colledges of Ieſuits, haue very lately aſſured the King of Spaine, that though heretofore he had no good ſucceſſe with his great

forces,

forces, againſt our Realme, yet if now he will once againe renewe his warre this next yeere, there ſhall bee found ready ſecretly within our Dominions, many thouſands (as they make their accompt for their purpoſe) of able people that will bee ready to aſſiſt ſuch power as he ſhall ſet on land, and by their vaunting, they doe tempt the King hereto, who otherwiſe ought in wiſedome, and by his late experience conceiue no hope of any ſafe landing here: ſhewing to him in Spaine, by the ſpeciall information of a Schooleman named *Parſons*, arrogating to himſelfe the name of the King Catholikes Confeſſour, and to the Pope at Rome, by an other Scholler called *Allen*, now for his treaſons honoured with a Cardinalles Hatte, certayne ſkroles or beadrolles of names, of men dwelling in ſundry partes of our Countries, as they haue imagined them, but ſpecially in the maritimes, with aſſurance, that theſe their Seedmen named Seminaries, Prieſtes, and Ieſuites are in the ſundry partes of the Realme, ſecretly harboured, hauing a great part of them beene ſent within theſe x. or xii. moneths, and ſhall bee ready to continue their reconciled people in their lewde conſtancie to ſerue their purpoſe both with their forces, and with their trayterous enterpriſes when the Spaniſh power ſhall be ready to land, vpon which their impudent aſſertions to the Pope, and to the king of Spaine (though they knowe a great part thereof to bee falſe) they haue nowe very lately aduertiſed into diuers partes by their ſecret meſſengers, whereof ſome are alſo very lately taken, and haue confeſſed the ſame, that the King vpon their informations and requeſtes

hath promiſed to imploy all his forces that he can, by ſea this next yeere, to attempt once againe the inuaſion of this Realme: Wherewith becauſe ſome of his wiſeſt Counſellers doubt that hee ſhall not preuaile, therefore hee is otherwiſe perſwaded, that if that his purpoſe ſhall not take place here, yet the ſame may bee well employed againſt France or the Lowe Countries, or againſt ſome parte of Scotland, into which Realme there hath alſo ſome number of the like broode beene lately ſent.

2 Wherefore conſidering that theſe the intentions of the King of Spaine, are to vs in this ſort made very manifeſt, And although we doubt not, but almightie God, the defender of all iuſt cauſes, will (as alway hitherto hee hath) make the ſame voyde: Yet it is our duetie as being the ſupreme Gouernor vnder his Almightie hand, to vſe all ſuch iuſt and reaſonable meanes as are giuen to vs, and therewith to concurre or rather attend vpon his moſt gracious fauour by the helpe of our faythfull Subiectes, both to encreaſe our forces to the vttermoſt of their powers, and by execution of Lawes, and by all other politike ordinaunces to impeach the foreſayde practiſes of theſe ſeditions and treaſons.

3 And before all other things, wee doe firſt require of the Eccleſiaſticall ſtate, that the like diligence bee vſed by the godly Miniſters of the Church, by their diligent teaching and example of life, to retaine our people ſtedfaſtly in the profeſſion of the Goſpell, and in their dueties to almightie God and vs, as it is ſeene a fewe Capitall heades of

treaſons

treaſons are continually occupyed with their Seminaries, in withdrawing of a multitude of ignorants to their enchantments.

4 And ſecondly, for hauing of ſufficient forces in readineſſe by Sea, we hope by Gods goodneſſe, and with the helpe of our good Subiects, to haue as great, or greater ſtrength on the Seas then at any time we haue had, to withſtand theſe puffed vaunts from Spaine: And for our forces by land, our truſt is, that ſeeing we haue diſtributed our whole realme into ſeuerall charges of Lieutenancies, that they by themſelues where they may bee perſonally preſent, and otherwiſe by their deputies and aſſiſtants of other our Miniſters, will now after the generall Muſters which haue ben by our ſpeciall order lately taken, conſider of all things requiſite to performe, and make perfect all defects that ſhall appeare neceſſarie, to make all the bandes both of horſemen and footemen fully furniſhed with armour, weapons, and munition, and with all other things requiſite for their conduction to the places of ſeruice, & there alſo to continue as time ſhall require to defend their Countrey. And ſo we doe moſt earneſtly require and charge all manner of our Subiectes, with their hands, purſes, and aduiſes, yea all and euery perſon of euery eſtate, with their prayers to God, to moue him to aſſiſt this ſo naturall, honourable, and profitable a ſeruice being onely for defence of their naturall countrey, their wiues, families, children, lands, goods, liberties, and their poſterities againſt rauening ſtrangers, wilfull deſtroyers of their Natiue countrey and monſtrous traytours.

5 And laſtly, to withſtand and prouide ſpeedy

remedy againſt other fraudulent attempts of the Seminaries, Ieſuits, & Traitors, without the which (as it appeareth) the forces ſhould not be now vſed, the ſame being wrought onely by falſehoode, by hypocriſie, and by vnderminings of our good Subiectes vnder a falſe colour and face of holineſſe, to make breaches in mens and womens conſciences, and ſo to traine them to their treaſons, and that with ſuch a ſecrecie by the harboring of the ſaide traiterous meſſengers in obſcure places, as without very diligent and continuall ſearch to be made, and ſeuere orders executed, the ſame will remaine and ſpred it ſelfe as a ſecret infection of treaſons in the bowels of our Realme, moſt dangerous, yea, moſt reprochfull to be ſuffered in any well ordered common weale: Therefore wee haue determined by aduiſe of our Counſel, to haue ſpeedily certaine Commiſſioners, men of honeſty, fidelitie, and good reputation to be appointed in euery Shire, Citie, and Port townes within our realm, to inquire by al good means what perſons are by their behauiours or otherwiſe worthy to be ſuſpected to be any ſuch perſons, as haue bene ſent, or that are imployed in any ſuch perſwading of our people or of any reſiding within our realm to treaſon, or to moue any to relinquiſh their allegeance to vs, or to acknowledge any kind of obedience to the Pope or to the King of Spaine, and alſo of other perſons that haue bene thereto induced, and that haue thereto yeelded. And further to proceede in the execution of ſuch their Commiſſion as they ſhall bee more particularlie directed by inſtructions annexed to their ſaide Commiſſion. And

6 And furthermore, becauſe it is certainelie knowen and prooued by common experience, vpon the apprehenſion of ſundry of the ſayde traiterous perſons ſent into the Realme, that they doe come into the ſame by ſecret Creekes, and landing places, diſguiſed, both in their names and perſons: Some in apparell, as Souldiers, Mariners, or Merchants, pretending that they haue bene heretofore taken priſoners, and put into Gallies, and deliuered: Some come in as gentlemen with contrary names, in comely apparell, as though they had trauelled into forreine Countries for knowledge: And generally all, or the moſt part, as ſoone as they are crept in, are cloathed like Gentlemen in apparell, and many as gallants, yea in all colours, and wyth feathers, and ſuch like diſguiſing themſelues, and many of them in their behauiour as Ruffians, farre off to be thought, or ſuſpected to be Friars, Prieſtes, Ieſuits, or Popiſh Schollers. And of theſe many do attempt to reſorte into the Vniuerſities and houſes of Lawe from whence in former times they departed: many into ſeruices of Noble men, Ladies and Gentlemen, with ſuch like fraudulent deuiſes to couer themſelues from all apprehenſion, or ſuſpicion: and yet in proceſſe of time, they doe at length ſo inſinuate themſelues to get themſelues credite wyth hypocriſies, as they infect both the Maſters and Families, and conſequentlie aduenture alſo, yea ſecretly to vſe their offices of Prieſthoode and reconcilements: Whereby all ſuch as doe retaine them are woorthie to bee ſuſpected, and may bee charged by Lawe to their great danger.

7 For auoyding whereof, and eyther to discouer these venemous Vipers, or to chase them awaie out of the realme from the infecting of many more, We do order and straightly charge and command all maner of persons of what degree soeuer they bee without any exception, Spirituall, or Temporall, Nobleman, Gentleman, Lorde, Lady, Master or Mistresse, or owner whatsoeuer of any house, familie, lodging, yea the very Officers of our owne housholde, and Gouernours of any societies, to make a present, due, and particular Inquisition of all maner of persons that haue bene admitted, or suffered to haue vsual resort, diet, lodging, residence in their houses, or in any place by their appointment, at any time within the space of one whole yeere now past, and ended at Michaelmas last: Or that from thencefoorth haue, or shall be admitted, or suffered so to resort, eate, lodge, reside or attend: And by such Inquisition and examination, to bee duely and particularly informed of what condition and Countrey any such persõ is, & by what kind of means he hath heretofore liued, & where he hath spẽt his time for the space of one whole yeere before. And likewise to know whether he hath vsed, & doth vse to repaire to the Church at vsuall times to diuine seruice, according to the Lawes of the realme. And to cause those Inquisitions, with their answeres to be put into writing particularly, and the same to keepe in a maner of a Register or Kalender to be shewed when they shall be demaunded, that vpon cause of suspition of any such person, the same may bee further tried by the Commissioners of those places, whether the same persons so examined bee loyall Subiects

iectes or no. And if any ſuch ſhall be found vnwilling to anſwere to ſuch Inquiſition, or ſhal be found by his doubtful anſwere not likely to be an obedient Subiect, the ſame perſon ſhal be ſtayed by the houſholder, or him that ought to haue examined him, and ſhal be ſent to any of the Commiſſioners aboue mentioned next adioyning. And if any perſon hauing gouernement or commaundement ouer anie ſuch ſeruaunt, or reſiant, ſhall be founde not to haue performed the pointes of the foreſaide Inquiſition as is aboue limitted, the ſame ſhall be called to appeare before the ſaide Commiſſioners, or before our priuie Counſell, if the qualitie of the perſon ſhall ſo require, and ſhall be further vſed and ordered for ſuch default, as the ſaide Commiſſioners, or our Counſel ſhal haue iuſt cauſe to deale with ſuch a perſon. And finally, wee doe admoniſhe and ſtraightly charge and commaund all perſons that haue had anie intelligence, with any ſuch ſo ſent or come from beyond the Seas to ſuch purpoſes, to detect them to the Commiſſioners in that behalfe to bee aſsigned as aforeſaide, within twentie dayes after the publication hereof, in the Shire, Towne, or Citie, or Porte, wythin the precinctes of the ſame Commiſsion, vpon paine that the offenders therein, ſhall be puniſhed as abettours and mainteiners of traytours. Wherein wee are reſolutely determined to ſuffer no fauour to bee vſed for anie reſpect of any perſons, qualities, or degrees, nor ſhall allowe, or ſuffer to be allowed any excuſe of negligence for not detection, or for not due examinatiō of the qualities of ſuch dangerous perſons according to the order here afore preſcribed, being

no wise contrary, but agreeable to the most ancient laws and good vsages of our Realme, deuised for the good order of al maner of subiects in euery precinct of any Leete to be foorthcomming to answere for their behauior towards the dignitie of our Crowne, and the common peace of our Realme.

Giuen at our Mannour of Richmond the xviii. day of October, 1591. in this xxxiii. yeere of our raigne.

God saue the Queene.

Imprinted at London by the Deputies of Christopher Barker, Printer to the Queenes most excellent Maiestie.

BRITISH MUSEUM 12 JY 36